

UW Black Studies Unit Viewed as a 'First Step'

By ROBERT PFEFFERKORN
(Of The State Journal Staff)

A black student spokesman at the University of Wisconsin Tuesday said black students recognize Monday's faculty endorsement of a black studies department, but only as a first step.

"We are going to maintain the pressure," said John Felder, 18, a freshman from New York.

CLAIMING TO represent the Black Council, Felder told reporters, "We haven't forgotten our demands."

"We have not one, but 13 de-



JOHN FELDER

mands. Our demands are intact and must be met."

The faculty voted Monday to recommend a "Department of Afro-American Studies" with students having a voice in curriculum matters.

Creation of a similar but autonomous and black controlled department was one of the 13 demands that touched off recent campus demonstrations.

FELDER declined to answer specific questions about plans or strategies in connection with "maintaining pressure," but he offered: "We are remaining in a state of preparedness."

Reading from a prepared statement, Felder continued:

"We acknowledge the faculty sought to alleviate the black-white crisis, (and) we shall insure implementation of this department to our satisfaction."

At another point he referred to a special legislative committee set up to study the February protests.

"IT IS APPARENT certain legislative and administrative bodies are attempting to divert attention from the injustices suffered by blacks on this campus.

"Our cause is just. We refuse to let political expediency or anything else stand in the way of our needs.

"We will take appropriate ac-

tions to circumvent the impending reincarnation of the Joseph McCarthy era."

He called the investigations a "witch-hunt," but did not indicate whether he would cooperate with the committee's investigation if invited.

Other black leaders remained unavailable for comment and did not attend the press conference called by Felder.